

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a front portion, a back portion, a crotch portion, and two side portions, the article comprising:

a main chassis;

an absorbent portion; and

first and second elastic portions which replace a portion of the main chassis, each of said first and second elastic portions having a first region that overlaps a portion of the main chassis for attachment thereto and a second region that does not overlap the main chassis, wherein the first elastic portion has a first central elastic portion corresponding to the front portion of the article and two first side inelastic portions corresponding to the side portions of the article, and the second elastic portion has a second central elastic portion corresponding to the back portion of the article and two second side inelastic portions corresponding to the back portion of the article, said first and second elastic portions

~~the first elastic portion positioned in the front portion of the article and the~~
~~second elastic portion positioned in the back portion of the article,~~
~~— wherein both the first and second elastic portions have a central portion~~
~~positioned between the side portions of the article having a lateral width less than a~~
lateral width of the main chassis, and

wherein ~~each~~ said first central elastic portion contacts said second central elastic
portion and extends in a longitudinal direction towards the crotch portion of the article.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~6~~ 5, wherein the first region has
an area that is smaller than an area of the second region.

8. (Original) The article of claim 7, wherein the area of the first region is less
than ten percent of a total area of the elastic portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 8, wherein the area of the
second region is substantially equal to the total area of the elastic portion such that the
attachment of the first and second elastic portions to the main chassis is an edge-to-edge
attachment.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~11~~ 5, wherein the first central elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the first side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the first central elastic portion is greater than the depth of the first side elastic portions.

13. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 12, wherein the second central elastic portion has a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, the second side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the second central elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side elastic portions.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~11~~ 5, wherein the second central elastic portion has a depth measured from a waist edge of the article toward a crotch portion of the article, the second side elastic portions have a depth measured from the waist edge of the article toward the crotch portion of the article, and the depth of the second central elastic portion is greater than the depth of the second side elastic portions.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~17~~ 5, wherein the first central elastic portion contacts the second central elastic portion at the crotch portion of the article.

19. (Original) The article of claim 18, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

20. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are triangular in shape.

21. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions have different areas.

22. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are one of oval and circular shape.

23. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are diamond shaped.

24. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the first and second elastic portions are rectangular.

25. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the article is a diaper.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 5, wherein the article is a pant.

27-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein the article further comprises a first carrier layer operatively associated with at least one of the first and second elastic portions.

55. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim ~~11~~ 5, wherein a longitudinal dimension of at least one of the first and second elastic portions along the longitudinal direction is a first distance, a longitudinal dimension of each of the associated side portions for the first and second elastic portions along the longitudinal direction is a second distance, and the first distance is less than twice the second distance.

56. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim ~~44~~ 5, wherein a lateral dimension of at least one of the first and second elastic portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a third distance, a lateral dimension of each of the two associated side portions of the first and second elastic portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a fourth distance, and the third distance is greater than the fourth distance.

57. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim ~~44~~ 5, wherein a lateral dimension of at least one of the first and second elastic portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a first distance, a lateral dimension of each of the associated side portions of the first and second elastic portions perpendicular to the longitudinal direction is a second distance, and the first distance is greater than twice the second distance.

58. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of claim 54, further comprising a second carrier layer operatively associated with the elastic portion wherein the elastic portion is disposed between the first and second carrier layers.

59-73. (Cancelled)